

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

**Tuesday, June 1st, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

**China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bringle called the meeting of June 1, 2010 to order and welcomed all in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bringle called roll. All council members were present, there was a quorum. The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Mayor Bringle recognized special members in attendance.

Mr. Kluttz, Principal of Jesse Carson High School, recognized several persons in attendance from China and in connection with this visitation.

Mayor Bringle showed a print that was painted by a student at this school that was presented to the Town of China Grove. He thanked them for being in attendance and gave them a lapel pin boasting the Town of China Grove seal.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to adopt the agenda for the regular meeting of the Town Council on June 1, 2010 with an addition under Citizen Comment I) Movie Project – Eric Troyer and II) Farmers Market - Barbara Doby. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Overcash made a motion to adopt the May 4, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Overcash made a motion to adopt the May 6, 2010 special meeting minutes. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Overcash made a motion to adopt the May 18, 2010 special meeting minutes. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Overcash made a motion to adopt the May 25, 2010 special meeting minutes. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Bringle read a letter from Pat Tyson which thanked the China Grove Police Department and Nicholas O'Brien.

- I) Mr. Eric Troyer stated that they have begun recording a movie in China Grove. He thanked the Town for allowing them to film this movie in Town.

Mayor Bringle congratulated Mr. Troyer. He stated that if the Town may be of assistance, to let them know.

Mr. Troyer thanked the Mayor and Council.

- II) Mrs. Barbara Doby thanked the Mayor and Council for their support. She stated that it began with 138 people in attendance. She thanked them for their partnership with the Historical Society. She stresses that they sell homegrown produce. She invited the remainder of the Council to come out and visit the market on Fridays.

Mayor Bringle thanked Mrs. Doby.

Mayor Bringle recognized Mr. Carl Ford, Rowan County Chairman and Mr. Raymond Coltrain, Rowan County Commissioner.

PUBLIC HEARING

- I) Proposed Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance

Ms. Emily Jackson reviewed the staff report provided to the Town Council. She stated that the Planning Board unanimously recommends approving the proposed UDO amendment.

Mayor Bringle opened the Public Hearing for public comments.

There were no comments.

Mayor Bringle closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Upright made a motion that the amendment is consistent with adopted Town plans and policies. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Upright made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Section 7.2.1, Type A Landscaping (Opaque Buffer yard). Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

I) Tatum Street – Discussion of two-way street

Mr. Pless stated that there has been a business that has opened on Main Street that may need Tatum Street changed to a two-way street. He stated that there may be a few parking spaces that will need to be removed.

Mayor Bringle asked if the Police Chief has reviewed this process.

Mr. Pless stated that this has been discussed with the Police Chief, Public Works Director and the Town Planner.

Mayor Bringle stated that he didn't believe parallel parking was there in the past or put there by the Town to his knowledge. He also stated that it is probably within their right-of-way as well. He stated that he can see that this would make these businesses more easily accessible.

Mr. Upright asked if there are any associated expenses besides marking and changing signage.

Mr. Pless did not believe that there would be additional expense.

Mr. Pless stated that he will bring this back to the Council in July.

Mr. Withers made a motion to change Tatum Street to a two-way street. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

II) Altec Sewer Line Extension - Recommendation of Award

Mr. Pless stated that Pease has bid this project and B.R.S, Inc. of Richfield, NC was lowest bidder and well within the budget for the project. He stated that the responsive bid was \$212,109.54. Mr. Pless asked the Council to award the bid to B.R.S, Inc.

Mr. Withers made a motion to award the Altec Sewer Line Extension project to B.R.S, Inc. of Richfield, NC in the bid amount of \$212, 109.54. Mr. Upright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

III) Addition of Sidewalk – CGMS to Porky's

Mr. Ketner stated that he has received three quotes for expanding the sidewalk from China Grove Middle School to Porky's BBQ. He stated that the contractor that is installing sidewalk for our current project, CMI Contracting, Inc. produced the lowest bid in the amount of \$8,232.00.

Mayor Bringle asked that the construction take place after school lets out for the summer.

Mr. Linn made a motion to install the sidewalk from CGMS to Porky's. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Withers asked Mr. Pless to notify CGMS.

Mayor Bringle stated that there is a Community Cookout this Saturday at the China Grove Community Building from 11-4 pm. He encouraged the Council to support this event if possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

I) Slow Moving Vehicle Ordinance

Mr. Pless stated that they have looked at a sample ordinance from Oakboro, NC. He stated that they have tweaked the ordinance and hope to have it to the Council in July for approval.

Mr. Upright stated that the Chief of Police has had staff to retype the ordinance and will forward it to the Council. He stated that the highlighted text is parts that are being changed. He stated that they would like to look at changing the price of the permit. He asked the Council to look at it and bring it back to them as soon as possible to allow them to make revisions before the next meeting.

Mayor Bringle stated that he received a phone call concerning Thom Street. He stated that there is hole that is 6-8 inches deep and asked Mr. Ketner to contact the State to put a patch on this hole.

CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Matters and Attorney-Client Matters

Mr. Upright made a motion to go into Closed Session for personnel and Attorney-Client matters. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

There was no action taken.

Mr. Overcash made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

RECESS

Mayor Bringle requested a recess until 8:10 pm.

Mayor Bringle thanked the staff for being flexible with the meeting hours. He also thanked those in attendance at the dinner for the school.

BUDGET MEETING

Mr. Pless and Mrs. Bopp provided balanced budgets for the Town Council.

Council reviewed the options for water rates.

Mr. Overcash stated that the Town gripes about having to purchase 300,000 gallons of water yet we want to turn around and charge a lady in town that barely uses 1,000 gallons for 2,000. He stated that he doesn't feel like this is fair and we compare to Salisbury.

Mayor Bringle stated that they changed the minimum many years ago to help out the citizens who use minimum water usage. He stated that what they didn't realize is that the rates from Salisbury would continue to climb and that they continue to get further and further away from the cost of doing business. He stated that they have to figure the cost of doing business and is concerned with what will need to be removed from reserves to balance the budget.

Mr. Upright stated that there really isn't a choice. He stated that the Council will have to make the decision to make an increase some place.

Mr. Overcash stated that he prefers Option #2 because of the minimum bill and thinks that there are many elderly ladies who can not afford, nor do they use, 2,000 gallons of water.

Mr. Withers stated that every year we have a loss in water usage and revenue using Option #2.

The Council agreed that option #3 isn't an option at this point.

Mr. Overcash stated that he can't agree with going with the minimum being doubled. Mr. Upright and Mr. Linn stated that they agree.

Mr. Withers and Mr. Seaford stated that they believe doubling the minimum is the only option.

Mayor Bringle stated that they need to consider economic effects of water and sewer rates on prospective commercial customers.

Mr. Pless stated that either option could be considered. He stated that the smaller users are going to eventually have to start paying. He also stated that he doesn't see how people can conserve much more water but doesn't want to challenge the citizens.

Mayor Bringle stated that they need to determine which option they wish to see administration go forward with for the budget hearing at next meeting.

Mr. Withers stated that this has to be a business decision and not personal.

Mayor Bringle stated personally, he would like to see Option #1; however, he believes Option #2 should be what the board considers for this year. He stated that a double minimum may have to be done next budget without consideration of an Option #2. He stated that the average taxpayer would be charged more in Option #2 considering the tax increase. He stated that he believes the general population would accept Option #1 over #2.

Mr. Withers stated that our rates shouldn't be based off the 400 people who use a certain rate. He stated that the 1300 other customers shouldn't suffer.

Mr. Withers asked the manager and finance officers for their opinions.

Mr. Pless and Mrs. Bopp both recommended a 2,000 minimum. Mr. Pless stated that he can understand the other side and can see why the board would go for option #1.

Mr. Withers made a motion to set the water and sewer rate to a double minimum and set water rate of \$9.00 and sewer rate \$10.20. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, the motion carried 3-2 with Mr. Overcash and Mr. Linn casting the opposing votes.

Mayor Bringle thanked the Council. He stated that surely all Council is aware that this is not a favorable situation but that hopefully what has transpired will position the Town in a better budgeting situation for next fiscal year. He stated that hopefully they understand why he has been a proponent of not owning the system for many years.

Mr. Seaford made a recommendation to make a PowerPoint presentation to help educate the public as to how they came about their decision.

Mr. Overcash stated that unless the public is involved in the budgeting system, they do not understand and will never be convinced.

Mr. Upright stated that during his campaigning he realized that there were some very tough decisions to be made.

Mayor Bringle stated that the Public Hearing will be held June 15, 2010 at 6:00 at the Town Hall.

ADJOURN

Mr. Overcash made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Upright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda A. Eller, Town Clerk

Donald E. Bringle, Mayor